LAST WRITTEN APPEAL!

African-American Freemasons:

Why They Should Accept Al-Islam

By Mustafa El-Amin

AFRICAN-AMERICAN FREEMASONS: Why They Should Accept Al-Islam - Mustafa El-Amin

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By

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With The Name Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful

In keeping with the wisdom of the Holy Qur'an and the traditions of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), I extend a sincere invitation to all African-American Freemasons and Shriners, as well as the larger community of people, to accept and embrace Al-Islam wholeheartedly and sincerely.

Mustafa El-Amin

ABOUT THE TITLE

One may wonder why I chose to select what seems to be a very specific and narrow focus. Understanding the universality of Al-Islam and its comprehensive appeal, I did not want to give the impression that it (Al-Islam) should only be for a certain group of people. However, after deep thought and much reflection and prayer, I decided to go ahead with the title and focus.

Those of you who have kept up with my efforts and work and writings know that I totally accept Al-Islam and its universal principles. You know I have advocated that all misrepresentation of our religion be stopped. There are over on half million African American Masons and Shriners. Realizing this, and realizing that they have been faintly exposed to the religion of Al-Islam, I felt that it would be compassionate, to make a direct but final appeal to them.

It is important that history shows for all times that the Shriners received a direct appeal from their Muslim brethren to accept the religion of Al-Islam and to stop its mockery and misrepresentation of our religion.

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to Bilal Ibn Rabah, an African from Abyssinia (Ethiopia), the first Muadhdhin (Prayer Caller) of Al-Islam.

This book is also dedicated to Mansa Musa, an African Muslim leader, who is noted for being one of the greatest rulers of Mali. He is most noted for leading one of the greatest and largest Hajj delegations to Makkah. He led over 60,00 people to Makkah.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to all those who assisted me in completing this work; my wife Wafiyyah El-Amin for her patience and encouragement; brothers Umar Bey Ali and Ansari Nadir, two friends and associates who have demonstrated the highest degree of loyalty and companionship for over 17 years. I thank Abdul Khabir Shamsid-deen and Abdul Hakeem Ali for aiding me in the area of practical ideas and efficiency. Also, Ahmad Shahid Siddiq for sharing his wisdom, experience, and insight.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank Imam Armiya Nu'Man and his wife, Zakiyyah Nu'Man for the layout, typesetting, editing, and publishing of this work.

I would like to give special thanks to my son, Mustafa Ramadhan El-Amin, who is a great inspiration to me.

FOREWORD

This book, African American Freemasons: Why They Should Accept Al-Islam, is another unique milestone in a series of works done by the author, Mustafa El-Amin. This book, like his others, is thought provoking, mentally stimulating and contains a wealth of information.

The author gives excellent analogies and logical reasons why it seems as though the African American in general and the Freemasons in particular should and will embrace the religion of Al-Islam. This book explains how some of the rituals and ceremonies in Freemasonry address specifically the plight of African American people over the last three centuries. It reveals the true purposes and aims of the Shrine Order in relation to Al-Islam and the African American people.

This book is hard hitting and the author is very candid about his position on Al-Islam and Freemasonry. Mustafa El-Amin makes a humble and rational appeal to the African American Freemasons and Shriners to accept the religion of Al-Islam. He expounds upon some of the basic tenets of Islam, and highlights it's contributions to world civilization.

The author raises very profound questions concerning the Caucasian Freemasons' attitude towards African Americans in general, and African American Freemasons in particular. Mr. El-Amin offers the African American Freemasons a solution and alternative to their difficult struggle of being accepted and recognized by White Freemasons.

The author makes a strong appeal to the Shriners to stop making mockery of Al-Islam and to delete the offensive language from the Shrine ritual. He clearly shows how such mockery is intended to misguide and create conflict between people.

This book is very interesting, informative, enjoyable and easy to understand. I hope that the reader will do as I have done, make it a part of their library.

I pray that Allah will bless this effort with His mercy, forgiveness and acceptance, and reward the author for his good works.

Umar Bey Ali
July, 1990

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CHAPTER 1

From Light To Darkness

There are approximately fifty million African-Americans now living in the USA. Prior to the abduction of their ancestors and enslavement of their forefathers, these people lived on the continent of Africa. History reveals that these people were highly advanced in science, culture and religion. Authentic reports verify that the Western world, the Greeks, the Romans etc., received the torch of enlightenment and civilization from their contact with the advanced nations of Africa. The Africans had developed to an extremely high position on the ladder of civilization. Such countries as Ethiopia, Egypt, Tanganika, Chad, Kenya, Sudan, Ghana, etc.

Many Westerners today marvel at the great works and contributions that were made to the world by African people. Many of them study and travel to Africa to see the great monuments that were built millions of years ago. We (the African-Americans) are descendants from a glorious past.

In the book, *"Africa and Her Children:An Introduction to African Civilization"*, Mr. Harry Armorer states: "No one can take from Africa and her children the glory of being the beginning of civilization and the contributors of what followed after. Africa and her children were the creators of art, music, science, religion, law, the alphabet, mathematics, medicine, astrology and on and on. " (pg. 21)

The Africans were well versed in the human and spiritual sciences as well. Psychology has its origins with the Africans of Egypt. It was called the "Study of the Soul."

Our people (African-Americans) were blessed to develop sophisticated and elaborate institutions of learning. They were blessed with the light of Al-Islam. Some of the most advanced centers of learning on this earth existed in Africa. The noted author J.A. Rogers explains how, by the influence of Al-Islam, Timbuktu became one of the world's greatest centers of science and learning.

Timbuktu was founded by a Muslim named Sunni Ali. Rogers writes: "Of the several Negro kingdoms that rose in West Africa between the eleventh and sixteenth centuries, the most notable was Songhai." The Africans walked in the light of social progress, human dignity and achievement. George G. M. James, expounding upon the educational role of Egypt in world civilization, writes: "Just as in our modern times, countries like the Unites States, England and France are attracting students from all parts of the world on account of their leadership in culture, so was it in ancient times. Egypt was supreme in the leadership of civilization, and students from all parts, flocked to that land, seeking admission into her mysteries of wisdom systems" (*Stolen Legacy* , pg. 42)

Reflecting again on the great role of Al-Islam in Africa, let us consider the words of Dr. Edward Blyden: "After the first conquest of the Muslims in North Africa, their religion advanced southward into the continent, not by arms, but by schools, books and mosques. They could not have brought a force sufficient to subjugate the people, for they had to deal with large, powerful, and energetic tribes.....you can understand why it is then that Islam has such a hold upon the African tribes who have embraced it.....The faith becomes a part of their nationality, and is entwined with their affection." (*Christianity, Islam and the Negro Race*). J.A. Rogers explains, "With the rise of Islam, the influence of Africans in the Middle East became a more noticeable feature of the religious and cultural transition in this part of the world." (*World's Great Men of Color*, pg. 24). Rogers also points out that "Slavery was never a barrier to an ambitious

slave Black or White, under Mohammedan rule. Mahmud of Ghazni, the greatest of the Mohammedan rulers of India, was born of slave parentage."

Imam W.D. Mohammed explains in the book, *"An African American Genesis"*, "Emphasis is not being placed on the fact that they (the African-Americans) have centuries of history as scientists and this was even before the time of Prophet Muhammad. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) came with the religion of Al-Islam and brought about a renaissance of interest in science. He not only awakened and quickened the intellect of the West (Europe), but he also touched the Black man's mind in Africa and brought him back to his scientific pursuits. You can read of the results in the history of Mali, Timbuktu, Ghana, and many other African nations. In studying the true history of Africa, you will learn of the glorious past of Al-Islam as it relates to us before we were brought here to America." (pg. 52)

The Caucasians of Europe and the Western world should have shown great respect and honor to our people. History clearly informs us that they didn't. Quite the contrary, they sought to destroy us and forever erase our great contributions and achievements from the pages of history. They brought us from light to darkness. They stole our sacred works. The true history has been lost. The Freemasons speak of a "lost word" and a "man in darkness". Well, our history is that "word" and we are the people in darkness, my brother. We must seek to come from darkness to light.

The Veil of Darkness

The people who walked in the light of scientific enlightenment were robbed of their great heritage. The enlightened continent of Africa was covered by a veil of darkness by the Europeans. They robbed Africa of her great human and physical minerals. They stole the books, burned the libraries, disfigured the Sphinx. They raped and

murdered the people of Africa. The evil and wicked invaders of Africa were determined to wipe out every drop of positive information that existed on record about us. They rewrote history and concocted a map that completely divided up the people of Africa.

The European. invaders instigated tribal wars and bloodshed. They divided and conquered the people of Africa. That was not enough, they then began to deport the Africans to the West. They took our people in chains and ropes. The book, *"The European Slave Trade"* depicts the barbaric and savage character of those people. They packed our people on ships like sardines. The conditions were unbearable. J.C. De Craft-Johnson writes: "It is little wonder then, that slaves not only died from physical ill-treatment, but also grief rage and despair. Some undertook hunger strikes, some undid their chains and hurled themselves on the crew in futile attempts at insurrection." *African Glory.*

It is reported that one captain of a slave ship stated: "They (the slaves) were as comfortable as a man might be in his coffin." The reader should reflect deeply on this because it was at this particular time that the process of dehumanization began to take place in the African's life. These were human beings, many of which were Muslims. Many of the slaves believed that "there was no god but Allah, and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is His last Messenger".

According to a surgeon who was on board of one of the slave ships; "While they (slaves) were in this situation, my profession requiring it, I frequently went down among them, till at length, their apartments became so extremely hot as to be sufferable for just a very short time.....The deck, that is the floor of their room was so covered with blood and mucous which had proceeded from them in consequence of the flux, that it resembled a slaughterhouse."

Once the ships arrived in England, America and France, the Caucasian slave master established the institution of slavery. Many of the African slaves were killed outright if they were deemed "unfit" for labor. Here in America, we were stripped of our language, our religion, our names, our culture, robbed of the knowledge of self and others. The cruel slave masters denied us the "sacred connections" of family life. The Caucasian slave master reduced us to the level of animals and would mate our slave parents, separate them, then raise the child with a slave mentality. The slaves were deprived and denied education. If a slave was caught reading, he would be either killed on the spot, or his eyes would be plucked out at the center. At the very least he would be horse-whipped.

The slave master would cut our people into small pieces. Some of the savage, educated Caucasian slave masters, who perhaps read the Egyptian myth of Osiris, would reflect on how he was cut into fourteen pieces, then take one of the rebellious slaves and cut him into pieces. Some of them belonged to the Masonic Order and would also cut our people up in accord with the instructions of the Masonic Ritual. That is why it is important that you African-American Freemasons leave Masonry because it really mocks the cruel treatment of our people. The Caucasian slave master would cut our people's throat, cut their tongues out, slice their wrist.

Some reports reveal that many slaves were found with their chest cut open straight down the middle. Some were even cut in half at the waist. According to the the teachings of Freemasonry, any member who reveals the secrets of Masonry is subject to the same cruelties. The slave masters were so cruel, according to some reports, that if it was believed that the slaves were about to rebel, a pregnant woman would be tied to a tree and the slavemaster would cut her stomach open, causing the fetus to fall to the ground, after which the slave master would crush it with his feet or a blunt instrument. They would have parties, while watching

a slave burn at the stake.

The slaves were totally reduced to an inferior position. They were brainwashed to such an extent that even today we still suffer from the psychological effects of slavery. (See Dr. Na'im Akbar's book: "*Chains and Images of Psychological Slavery*"). The institution of slavery, with its ideology of black inferiority and white superiority, caused us (African-Americans) to dislike our very skin color and features. It caused us to love Caucasians and hate ourselves. They made us a complete slave and ignorant people. They intended that fear would forever dominate our hearts. They hoped they could even make us "genetically inferior." The slave master brought us from light to darkness.

Why The Slaves Called For Jesus

One of the largest and most active ships used in the slave trade was called *"Jesus"*. This ship was sent from the Queen of England to Africa to transport our people (Africans) to the West. The first Englishman to engage in the slave trade to America was Captain John Hawkins. He was one of the most successful savage European traders of his day. In the book *"Slave Ships and Slaving"*, pg.21, George Francis Dow writes: "The success of Captain Hawkin's first slaving voyage was so great that he had no difficulty in obtaining powerful backing for a second interloping venture. Even the queen became a shareholder and lent the expedition the "Jesus of Lubek", a vessel of seven hundred tons that had been bought for the English Navy....Elizabeth's stake in the venture may be judged from the fact that the "Jesus" was valued at $4,000---about $40,000 in present day values."

As the ship called "Jesus" would leave the American shores to return to Africa, I am sure the slaves would cry out for the ships to take them back to Africa. "Jesus, Jesus please don't leave us." But the ship left them anyway. Deep in their hearts they prayed, hoped and believed that the ship called "Jesus" would return to deliver them from hell. In

addition to that, the Caucasian slave master gave his slave a picture of a blue eyed pale faced Caucasian nailed on a cross, bleeding, and said "his name is Jesus, your savior, just call on him and you will be saved."

The Shock of Entrance

The sudden uprooting of our people had a painful and shocking affect on our hearts and minds. We experienced "Culture Shock." We were not given a chance to adjust to a new environment. We were not adequately prepared. David Walker (1829) in his *"David Walker's Appeal"* proclaimed: "yet the American minister sent out missionaries to convert the heathen, while they kept us and our children sunk at their feet in the most abject ignorance and wretchedness that ever a people was afflicted with since the world began."

That experience is recorded in Freemasonry. It is called, "the Shock of Entrance." In its instruction to the new mason, the Masonic ritual states "On entering the lodge for the first time, you were received on the point of a sharp instrument pressing your naked left breast, which is to teach you, as this is an instrument of torture to your flesh, so should the recollection of it ever be to your mind and conscience, should you attempt to reveal the secrets of masonry unlawfully."

This ceremony is known as "the Shock of Entrance" or "the Rite of Induction". We were suddenly inducted into slavery upon the sharp point of hatred and physical torture. Our mind and conscience is deeply printed with the pain, horror and affects of the slave experience. The Masonic ritual says the compass is an instrument of torture. The compass is not an instrument of torture. The compass is used to draw a circle of 360°. The pain and torture comes when a people are taken out of the family circle of man and denied his sacred rights as a human being. When the circle of man viewed us as an inferior and low-life beast; that was torture! The Caucasians were responsible for that.

The North

In the secret teachings of Freemasonry and other secret orders, the "North" refers to "darkness". The Masonic scholar Albert Mackey writes; "the north is Masonically called a "place of darkness." It is the place of intellectual ignorance and darkness. It is considered such because the sun does not travel in that direction. The sun rises in the east, travels south and sets in the west. Symbolically speaking the north does not receive the light, it is viewed as a dark and cold place. The person who starts out in masonry is placed in the northeast corner, representing his ignorance to the light of masonry. The Caucasian, even today lie and tell us that Egypt, Africa is "The land of darkness."

The slaves were made to believe that the north was better than the south. We believed that the north offered greater opportunity. The north offered freedom. The slaves would escape and go North. After slavery thousands of African-Americans went north. The wise Caucasians were really saying to each other; "Let the niggers stay ignorant, in the dark." They didn't care about our physical freedom, as long as we were mentally enslaved and ignorant. I am sure the Caucasians laughed and said; "Let the niggers go 'north', deeper into ignorance. We don't want them here under the light of intelligence."

They wanted us to live in the "North" (in ignorance). The proof of it is that the Caucasians of the north didn't offer us education or an opportunity to develop our minds. They just used us to break the economic and political backbone of the southern state.

CHAPTER 2

From Darkness to Light

Wherewith Allah guideth
All who seeks His good
Pleasure to ways of peace
and safety, and leadeth them
Out of darkness, by His
Will, Unto the light,
guideth them to a path
that is straight.
Holy Qur'an Sura 5 Ayat 18

The human being is a creature of light. His natural desire and urge is for light and knowledge. The Holy Qur'an says *"Allah brings us from darkness to light.*". The Bible says, *"in the beginning was darkness and God said; "Let there be light and there was light."* The Creator intends for us to have knowledge, wisdom, achievement. The very genetic make-up of man yearns for light (knowledge and recorded experiences). When a people have been kept out of the light of knowledge, groping in darkness for decades and centuries, what is recorded in their gene bank? The survival instincts begin to operate more. The African-American has survived through years of darkness (oppression). Our people have sought to find the light. Richard Williams very appropriately titled his book *"They Stole It, But You Must Return It."* Because the African-Americans were not allowed to read and develop their minds during slavery, and denied the opportunity to grow mentally. We should feel obligated to develop our minds for ourselves today. We shouldn't expect the same people who enslaved us and stole our minds to free us and give us the true knowledge of our history. We have to do research, study, and work hard to elevate ourselves. I don't believe that its in the White

supremacists' nature, to desire for us (African Americans) the same things that they desired for themselves and their families. Our travel is from darkness to light. From mental oppression to intellectual freedom. The Holy Qur'an says *"Tulmult and oppression are worse than slaughter."* (Surah 2 Ayat 217). We were slaughtered outright like animals and our minds were oppressed with lies, deceit, dark symbolism, Christianity and a false concept of ourselves.

Allah does not intend for the human being to be oppressed. He condemns it outright in the Holy Qur'an. Therefore it can be reasoned that the Creator, through the natural laws in creation will eventually remove oppression. We are destined to come into the light. Allah has given us the light. He blessed us here in America to receive the Holy Qur'an, the religion of Al-Islam. Those of us who really desire to be free have accepted the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The Freemasons and Shriners have the Holy Qur'an but have not accepted it totally and have not accepted the sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Allah has brought many of our people to Al-Islam gradually. The mental enlightenment has been restored for many of us. However, too many still grope in darkness.

Travelling East For the Light

The Freemasons were given a clue or hint as to where the light is. Only a few caught the hint and found knowledge. Masonry teaches that the man should travel from West to East in search of light and that which was lost. That was a hint to the wise. We came from the east. The great civilizations that gave science and wisdom to the world were in Africa. The Holy City of Makkah, the birth place of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is in the East. The light of Al-Islam shown from the east to the west. Our history and culture was lost when the Europeans came to the east and slaughtered our people and stole the knowledge.

Telling a man to travel east, is a subtle way of telling him where the knowledge is. Maybe that is why the Caucasian didn't want the African-American to join the White Masonic order. Perhaps the Caucasian wasn't sure of how ignorant he had made our people, and feared that we would catch the hint. They probably thought that if they (African-American Mason's) were told to "travel east in search of light and that which was lost", they would immediately begin to look at the Holy Qur'an and the Islamic world as well as other African cultures. But once the Caucasian slavemaster of England and America realized that our people were totally dead mentally, backwards and confused, he felt comfortable enough to let some of us join the Masonic order and get a little bit of the wisdom. The Caucasian gave the African-American an imitation and watered down version of Masonry.

When you read the history of Freemasonry among the African-Americans, you will find no where, a conscious, determined effort on their part to reconnect our people with our lost heritage, Al-Islam or any of the positive teachings of our ancient fathers. What you will find is a selfish attempt to keep the knowledge among themselves and to receive benefits from the white establishment. Yet there ritual tells them to "travel from west to east in search of light and that which is lost." The Caucasian travels to the east, Africa, Arabia, Asia, China, Russia etc., but the African-American Freemasons and others don't travel beyond their lodge. Why? Because we were made too blind to see the wisdom. You African-American Freemasons and Shriners are suppose to accept Al-Islam, the religion of your ancestors. The religion for all of humanity, revealed from Allah, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, that is the light. Your struggle across the hot sands, the rough and rugged road is leading you to the light, the Holy Qur'an, Al-Islam.

Another reason that the Caucasian didn't allow our people to become Freemasons is because they thought we would be wise enough to interpret the story of Hiram Abiff

in relation to our own experience. They thought we would see ourselves as the Master Builder who was killed by the three ruffians, England, France and America. They feared that connection. We too were hit in the head (robbed of knowledge). Hit in the heart (made insensitive) and hit in the throat (robbed of our language and the ability to speak intelligently). The Caucasians figured that we would see the answer to our condition and the method for raising our people. They thought we would connect Solomon with the word Sol (which means light) and the five points of fellowship with the five pillars of Al-Islam (1) to witness that there is but one God, Allah, and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is His Messenger; (2) prayer; (3) charity; (4) fasting; (5) pilgrimage to Makkah.

Once the Caucasian slave master saw that the African American slaves would accept an image of the Caucasian slave master as God, he knew our people who entered masonry would never make any rational association with the rituals and ceremonies in Masonry with their own experience. Once the Caucasian realized this, he knew he didn't have to worry about our people seeing themselves in the legend of Hiram Abiff, the Master Builder. Originally the Caucasian slave master did fear that possibility, just as he feared our people reading the story in the Bible about the Jews in bondage in Egypt. In fact they restricted the African American preachers from reading and preaching about the story of Moses in Egypt. In fact the Christian preacher couldn't give a sermon without the white man's approval.

There are over a half million African American Freemasons, and never have any of them written a ritual or book connecting the events in masonry in general, and the Hiramic Legend in particular to our experience in America. Never has a Grand Master, a Past Master, an Imperial Potentate, a Master mason, an Imperial Lecturer or Recorder given their brethren or our people in general, any information that draws an analogy between the story of the death and resurrection of Hiram Abiff and the African

American people.

The Supreme Council of the North and South hasn't done it, nor has any African American Shriner done it. Why? The connections are there, the relationship is very clear (see my books *Freemasonry, Ancient Egypt, and the Islamic Destiny* pg. 135 and *Al-Islam, Christianity and Freemasonry).* It hasn't been done because our people are still in the dark. Even those who have some light. Some of our people's hearts are oppressed by the darkness of fear.

Some of the Jewish writers of the story of Hiram Abiff, the Master Builder, have made a relationship between that story and the Jewish experience in the world. In fact most of the rituals and ceremonies in masonry are Jewish. They all have a Jewish flavor. I have read some of their books on masonry and in each book the Jewish author drew an analogy between the story of Hiram Abiff and the Jewish people's experience. They relate the Holocaust to the murder of the Master Builder, and the Jews ultimate rise to power and influence to that of the resurrection of Hiram Abiff. The Europeans relate the story to the Fall of Britain and its ultimate resurrection to world dominance. Some relate it to the Fall of the Roman Empire and its political and social resurrection. Still others draw an analogy between the defeat of Hitler and the Germans and their ultimate rise back into military and economic power. Some associate it with the fall of America (the depression, the Vietnam war, drugs, civil disobedience, racism, etc.) and the ultimate destiny as a true democracy.

Wake up brother and rewrite the Masonic ritual. Be original. If you feel you must stay there, then at least view it from the stand point of an African American. Analyze it with a free mind and don't accept blindly what the Caucasians gave you. Our people were Muslims when they were taken from Africa. They lived in the light of Al-Islam. Don't accept to be a "Son of the Desert". Be "Master of the Desert". You should take the statement serious from the

Shrine Ritual which says, "Travel over the hot sands to worship at the Shrine of Islam" and "who so seeketh Islam earnestly, seek true direction." Come out of the dark quarters of secrecy and come to the light of Al-Islam with a sincere heart. It is your destiny and salvation. You may say what is Al-Islam? Why should I accept it?

Al-Islam

Al-Islam is actually a way of life. It is called in the Holy Qur'an; Deen Al-Fitr; the religion of nature or origin. It is for all of humanity. Anyone can become a Muslim. The word Al-Islam actually means peace and submission. Everything in creation submits to the will of the Creator. The Holy Qur'an says *"To Him belongs every being that is in the heavens and on earth: All are devoutly obedient to Him."* It also tells us that all the creation gives praise to Allah. (Sura 26 Ayats 41-42). The person who accepts consciously the religion of Al-Islam is called a Muslim, a Believer. Muslims are obligated to recognize and accept all the prophets and messengers from Adam to Muhammad. Al-Islam teaches that all the prophets belong to one brotherhood and that those who follow the prophets belong to one brotherhood, even if we are apart. We belong to the family of humanity. As a Muslim you can recognize the various communities or ethnic groups, races etc. But not despise them or hate them simply because they're different. The Holy Qur'an says Allah has made us *"tribes and communities so that we may know one another and not despise one another."* (49:13)

The Holy Book of the Muslims is the Holy Qur'an. It was revealed to prophet Muhammad (PBUH) over a period of twenty three years. It was not written by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). He is not the author of the Holy Qur'an, Allah (God) is. The religion of Al-Islam teaches that the human being is a sacred creation and that we were created with a good nature and natural inclination to do right and to worship Allah. Al-Islam teaches that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the last Messenger and Prophet of

Allah (God). He is not God or divine. He is the model of human excellence and moral integrity. He is the complete man.

Muslim life should be carried into practice. More specifically, the obligation of a Muslim is very simple and basic. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) explained it very simply; *"Islam has been built on five pillars: Testifying that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, performing the prayers, paying the zakat (charity), fasting in Ramadan, making pilgrimage to the Kaaba."* These are the bases of Al-Islam. Believe me brother, once you accept and practice these basic pillars you will realize that Al-Islam is right in accord with your nature. The highest knowledge in the world is the Holy Qur'an. It is the light that draws people and nations out of the darkness of ignorance, oppression, fear, superstition etc. The Holy Qur'an is the most widely read Book in the world. Al-Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world. If you truly want the light, accept Al-Islam.

"Say: The Truth is from your Lord,
Let him who will believe,
And let him who will reject it"
Surah 18 Ayat 29

The Holy Qur'an: The Light

Allah says in the Qur'an that he brings us from darkness to light. The Qur'an itself is called *An-Nur* (The Light). Authentic history reveals that the Holy Qur'an brought the pagan Arabs and the uncivilized savage Caucasians of Europe out of darkness, superstition, and backwardness into the light of civilization, refinement and scientific advancement. Muslims, with the wisdom of the Qur'an, changed the course of human events. It was the Holy Qur'an and the sincere efforts of the faithful Muslims that regenerated and re-motivated the African people and gave rise to great, productive advanced governments and centers of learning, such as Timbuktu, Mali, Ghana, etc.

The same light that brought the world out of darkness hundreds and thousands of years ago will bring the African American people out of mental darkness and dependency. The Shriners don't have the whole light, only a very small portion. The African-American Shriner has an even smaller portion. The proof that they don't have the real light is the fact that the mockery, joviality and foolish play that goes along with the initiation has been allowed for so long. The Holy Qur'an condemns that outright. The Qur'an condemns the eating of hog (pig). It condemns gambling and drinking. The Caucasian leadership has kept and preserved the high wisdom of the Qur'an for himself and only given you a watered down version of the true knowledge. Wake up brother, you have been tricked.

In the Shrine ritual, it states that "the Shriner is travelling from west to east over the hot sands of the desert to worship at the Shrine of Islam." Think about that!

The Abrahamic Principle

Abraham is recognized and accepted by Muslims, Christians and Jews as the "Father of the Faithful". Both the Bible and the Qur'an says that Abraham graduated from Abram to Abraham. His sincerity and willingness to sacrifice his son earned from Allah the title of "Abraham" (father or Imam of the nations). He progressed from leader of one nation to leader of all the nations. The Holy Qur'an calls him an Ummah (community) devoted to Allah (16:120). Abraham demonstrated the highest degree of faith and devotion to Allah.

His faith led him to understanding. Abraham displayed a high level of rational and intellectual awareness. The Holy Qur'an tells us that in his search for the true concept of Allah, he looked at the star, moon and sun. When he recognized their limitations, he rejected them and concluded that the power that created all things, that causes the star,

moon and sun to rise and set is Allah. Abraham typifies the rational urge and operations in man. He is an excellent example of the rational nature in harmony with the spirit of faith. Therefore the "Abrahamic Principle" alludes to that ability in man to unify rational operations with faith and devotion. The Abrahamic Principle refers to the balancing of reason and faith. Abraham had this equilibrium. He was not like the extremely rational man who recognizes no spiritual reality. Nor was he like the extremely spiritual man who rejects the material world and its benefits.

It is reported that the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) met Abraham on the highest plane of heaven; the seventh heaven. The balancing of the rational urge and the devotional nature can lead us to a good situation.

CHAPTER 3

The Travelling Man

There are many things in Masonry that gives clear hints towards the religion Al-Islam. The term "traveller" refers to "movement, progress, activity". Freemasons and Shriners are called "Travellers". Therefore,the Masons should be moving, active in his pursuit of knowledge (light). Their destiny is Islamic knowledge, Islamic life. Their aim is to become Muslim, even if they don't realize it. The Caucasians never gave them the whole truth, only dark symbols and rituals. Masons go to a "lodge." A "lodge" is a temporary place of rest and refreshment. Anyone who has ridden down the highway has seen the sign "Lodging next exit."

The lodge is temporary, brother, the Mosque (Masjid) is permanent. The lodge is a temporary stop over, to prepare yourself and refresh yourself so that you can continue your journey. If you stay in the lodge too long, you may never reach your Islamic destiny. In fact, you may be arrested for loitering. At the end of the Masonic travel or journey awaits the Holy Qur'an. At the end of the journey the mason hears the words As-Salaam-Alaikum, Allah, Makkah, Muhammad, With the Name Allah, Muslim. They even receive Muslim names and wear fezzes and turbans etc. Actually its a waste of time and money for African Americans to join the Masonic order. Why? Because there is no guarantee that you will reach your destination and become a Muslim.

Masons and Muslims are not the Same!

Masons and Shriners are allowed to drink alcohol, gamble, commit adultery, eat hog (pig), act silly and act stupid. They are encouraged to lie to non-members. They

can profess Christianity in one place and Al-Islam in another. Double talk is encouraged. The doctrine of Masonry considers all non-masons as ignorant people, the "Profane." The Masonic Preacher can swear on the Holy Qur'an in the name Allah, then go to church and lie and deceive the people by saying Jesus is God.

On the other hand, Muslims are not allowed to do any of the above mentioned. In fact, Muslims are encouraged to condemn those things. Muslims must accept the whole Qur'an, Masons and Shriners don't. Muslims believe all people have a sacred right to the higher knowledge. The Islamic religion encourages religious tolerance, human dignity and decency. Muslims must extend their charity and knowledge to the entire society, not just a small group of people. Muslims are not Christian preachers, Bishops, Cardinals, etc. Masons are. Muslims and Masons are not the same. Muslims fear only Allah. Masons fear men and death oaths. Although there are many differences, we can still live together and work for the advancement of our people.

"You Have Been Lied to, Brother"

Many of our people have accepted the belief that the higher and precious knowledge can only be obtained by joining some secret order. Understand brother, that you don't have to join the white man's secret order to get the knowledge. The white man led us to believe that he is the fountain from which all things spring. Don't feel too proud, because you are a Shriner. The Caucasian told you that as a Freemason and Shriner you can travel to foreign and distant lands. He led you to believe that you can go any where on this earth and be accepted. That is a lie! The majority of the Muslim countries reject and forbid Shrinedom.

In fact, in some places your very life would be threatened, if you acknowledged yourself as a Shriner. Why? Because the Shrine organization is viewed as a

mockery making and under-handed organization. In fact, if the majority of the good Christians knew the language of the Shriner, they would also reject it outright. Brother, you are playing a dangerous game. You should break your oath and accept the religion of Al-Islam wholeheartedly. You should reject the substitute and embrace the real thing.

According to the language and teachings of the Shriners, all other people are the "profane", ignorant, uninformed. That's an insult to humanity. The Caucasian laughs at you every time you say that. He knows he will always keep you separate from your people as long as you think you are a Shriner, a "noble". What makes you "noble?" There is no nobility in pretending that you are something that you are not. To pretend that you are a Muslim, to dress in Muslim garments, use Islamic terminology and yet demonstrate behaviors and practices that are totally contrary to the Muslim's life and beliefs is not noble. In fact, it's hypocritical.

The Holy Qur'an: Not a Secret Book

The Holy Qur'an is for all of humanity. It states that it is a message for all the people. In fact, it is the most widest read Book in the world. Over one billion Muslims read and/or recite the Holy Qur'an at least once a year (During the month of Ramadan). Not to mention the fact that a portion of it is to be recited everyday, five times a day. No one can claim exclusive rights over the Holy Qur'an. It is called "Al-Baiyyina" (The Clear Evidence). There are those who believe that the Holy Qur'an is only for those in the secret order. In fact, the African-American Freemason is exposed directly to the Holy Qur'an only when he becomes a Shriner, and then only to certain portions of it. No man or woman has to wait until he or she reaches a certain degree of knowledge or status to receive the Holy Qur'an. You can just go and buy it. If you are sincere, Allah will bless you with deeper understanding. The first thing that you should get in your search for knowledge and understanding is the

Holy Qur'an. "If there was a Book by which mountains were moved or the dead was made to speak this would be the Book." If anyone is in the dark and wants to find his way, he should read the Holy Qur'an; it is the Light. Allah says that the Qur'an is for all the people.

"Verily this is no less
than a message to (all)
the worlds: (With profit)
to whoever among you wills
to go straight"
Surah 81 Ayat 27,28

Father Adam and the Blackstone

When we study some of the Qur'anic references to Adam and the recorded information about the Blackstone, we find many similarities. The Holy Qur'an gives a picture of Adam's origin in the "heavens" (higher plane of existence). It states *"Get ye down from here into the earth."* (2:32-40). Adam was the first original man. He was made from "black clay fashioned into shape". All human beings are made after the pattern of Adam, the first man. Our physical structure, as well as our human nature and essence is the same as our father Adam. The Holy Qur'an says Allah created all the sons of Adam in nobility. (17:70)

Adam was created with a good nature and a natural inclination towards truth and righteousness. Allah also says He created the human in the best mould (95:4). Adam represents the "beginning of human development". It is reported that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) ascended to the "Seventh heaven". During his ascension, he met Father Adam on the first level of heaven, at the foundation. (See Abdul K. Shamsid-Deen's booklet; *"Prophet Muhammad The Human Model"* pgs. 1-3) It can be reasoned from this, nature is sufficient enough to earn us a place in paradise. It also reminds us that the Adamic principle of innocence and goodness is first in our development and the development of

society. Adam was our first father. We are millions of years up from his creation. However, his very essence is still with each and every human being. That original nature is the cornerstone of society.

The Blackstone

It is reported that the Blackstone, like Adam was originally in heaven (the sky), and that it fell to the earth. The heat of the atmosphere caused it to turn from white to black. The falling of this stone served as a sign to Father Abraham as to where to build the Kaabah, the first house built for the worship of Allah. This stone was placed in the corner of the Kaabah, serving as a guiding stone for the building. Philosophically and symbolically speaking, the Blackstone represents the rich fertile human nature. It was the first stone of the building just as Adam was the first phase of human and societal development.

Centuries after the building of the Kaabah, the Blackstone had fallen out of its place. During that time the Arab tribesman and leaders disputed over who should put the stone back in its place. They chose a honorable and trustworthy young man named Muhammad, to place it back in the corner. That was an extremely significant event, in the life of man. Why? Because man and society had gotten off its original course. Someone had to put the society back on course. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was/is the one to put it back on its original course. The placing of the stone back in its original place, represented Muhammad's (PBUH) role. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the fulfillment of human development. He was responsible for restoring the missing stone of human dignity. It takes a honorable, sincere, and trustworthy person to do the job. Once man returns back to his original good nature, realizes the value of that return, he will automatically rejoice, and feel good about it.

Kissing the Blackstone, my brother is symbolic of showing respect and recognition of one of the greatest events

that ever occurred in human history. You should realize, dear African-American Shriner, that you make yourself look like a damn fool when you associate the kissing of the Blackstone with kissing someone's "Hind Parts." It shows that you have no understanding and no regard for these things that are important and sacred to others. Wake up!

CHAPTER 4

No Compromise

The religion of Al-Islam is a comprehensive religion. It addresses every aspect of human life and survival. Muslims are required to respect the rights of other people. Al-Islam encourages religious tolerance. In fact, it obligates the Muslims to defend the rights of others to freedom of worship. In addressing the people, Muslims are to select the most respectful and intelligent methods of relaying the message. The Holy Qur'an says; *"Call the people with wisdom and beautiful preaching."* (16:125). The Holy Qur'an, however is also very clear and firm in its address to those who make mockery of the religion. It states *"O ye who believe! Take not for friends and protectors those who take your religion for a mockery or sport whither among those who received the Scripture before you, or among those who reject faith, but Fear ye God (Allah), if you have faith (indeed)."* (5:60). It also states, "Leave alone those who take your religion to be mere play and amusement." The religion of Al-Islam is too precious and dear to the hearts of the faithful to allow people to make open and subtle mockery of it and not be challenged. There is no room for any compromise on the issue of the Oneness of Allah and mockery of the precious tenets and rites of the religion. I believe there can be no compromise concerning the issue of mockery that exists in the Shrine Ritual.

The language must be changed and the mockery must cease! I have personally appealed to the leadership of the African American Shriners (Prince Hall affiliate) on several occasions to change the offensive statements and to stop the mockery. I appealed to the Shriners, from the position of an intellectual and as a man of integrity and respect for their positive efforts. I applied the rule of diplomacy in each

address to them, and some progress was made. However, I believe that I must make it absolutely clear that no forms of mockery can ever be accepted or negotiated. No matter how much wisdom exist in the shrine house, or how positive some of their efforts are. As long as their exist the degrading and disrespectful mockery of the religion of Al-Islam their can never be any real harmony between Muslims and Shriners. This is not to say however, that efforts should not be made. I ask what has the Muslim community done to justify the African-American Shriners to make open and subtle mockery of us and our practices? We have tried to help elevate our people and give them a sense of worth, pride and dignity. Brother stop doing the Caucasian, white supremacist's bidding. Stop being his tool! Believe me he has left you in an explosive mine field. Because many of our people have not been taught of the subtle works and movements of the serpent, they can't identify many of the dangerous traps that have been set by the white man . The African-American Shriners may be sitting on a time bomb.

The Three-Fifth Compromise

There are some things that cannot be compromised. You may say "in order for Muslims and Shriners to continue their dialogue and discussion their must be room for compromise." There is room for compromise, but not on the essentials of our religion. Mockery cannot be tolerated. To help you better understand this point, let me bring your attention to something that all African Americans can relate to. Recent history informs us that the Caucasian - Americans considered us (African-Americans) as only 3/5 of a human. Our human worth was compromised by the Caucasians of the North and South

Do you think that our human worth should have been compromised? Would you even consider a discussion on the subject? Allah created us as whole, complete human beings. The African-American is as much human as any person on this earth! The Caucasian didn't feel that way. In

fact, many of them still feel that we are much less than them intellectually, genetically and humanly. Many of the Caucasians today wish we were still their physical slaves. Some of them wish we would just disappear.

Concerning the "Three-Fifths Compromise", Dr. John Patrick, Dr. Carol Berkin, Dr. Richard Wislon and Margaret Altoff write in their book *History of the American Nation:* "By 1787 slavery was fastly disappearing in the Northern states. But it was a basic part of the south. Slaves were 39 percent of the population in Virginia, 43 percent in South Carolina, 25 percent in North Carolina, and 35 percent in Georgia. As might be expected, the Southern delegates wanted to count their slaves along with free people. This would give the Southern states more members and voting power in Congress. The Northern delegates protested. They argued that slaves were treated as property. They had no civil rights. Arguments between the North and South continued until Roger Sherman and Oliver Ellsworth took the lead in working out a compromise...They proposed that one slave would be counted as three-fifths of a free person. That meant that 1,000 slaves would be counted as 600 people." (pg. 196)

The African-Americans were used by the Caucasians as a tool for his political aspirations. The essence of the argument was whether we should be viewed as property, un-human, beast, or part human. They compromised on our classification. The issue was not the cruel treatment of the African-Americans, just the classification, for political and tax purposes.

If you understand the seriousness of what the Caucasians did, then perhaps you can understand why some things cannot be compromised. Making mockery of the Islamic religion is a clear display of your ignorance of your history. Al-Islam was a positive and motivating factor in our history and African culture. You should respect such a religion even if you don't embrace it today.

CHAPTER 5

Slavery and The Master Builder

"There is nowhere any
mention or trace of
the Tragedy of Hiram Abiff
in the Old Charges or in
other records prior to
1725-1730"
(Mackey's revised Encyclopedia
of Freemasonry Vol.3 pg.1259)

History clearly informs us of the cruel and peculiar institution of slavery that existed in America. Many authors have recounted and reported many of the recorded accounts of human slaughter during the slave trade. Therefore I won't spend a lot of time documenting what has already been written. It is essential that we realize that the cruel murder and enslavement of the African-American people was recorded both publicly and secretly. It is important for you African-American Shriners and Freemasons to realize that the kidnapping and murder of our people by the Caucasian was recorded and hid under the title of Hiram Abiff, The Widow's Son. According to many Masonic authors and scholars, the story of the murder of Hiram Abiff by Jubela, Jubelo and Jubelum did not exist prior to the 1700s. J.N. Casavis explains, "All historical evidence points to the fact that the Hiramic Legend as we know it today is a very recent introduction into the ceremonies of Freemasonry. No signs are known of its practice among the craft prior to Revival of 1717". (The Greek Origin of Freemasonry). The reputable historian, W.J. Hughan informs us that, "It seems quite clear that until what is known as the Revival (1717 cira), neither Solomon's Temple nor its "great architect' (Hiram Abiff) were conspicuous figures in Masonic Ritual, and assuredly the "Old Charges' are generally indifferent as to

the matter....."

Professor S.P. Johnston, after extensive and tedious research, reported, "I have gone to the works of those English scholars of the seventeenth century who have referred to the sacred edifice, hoping to find in them some indication of the source of the legends current in our craft. I have gone to these works as the most promising field for such information, but my hopes were disappointed. Of the Hiramic Legend, not even the slightest trace was discovered."

If the above mentioned reports by reliable and credible Masonic historians are true, then what does this suggest? If we reflect on what was going on in this country and England at the time of the adoption of the Hiram legend into Masonry, perhaps we can find the answer. The most important event in the 1700's was slavery. Therefore we can rationally conclude that the Hiramic Legend is not an ancient legend, but a modern report of what had happened and was happening to the African American people. In the 1700's, when the story of Hiram Abiff, the Master Builder was created and introduced into the third degree of Masonry, the African Americans were enslaved. Think Brother! Reflect! The Hiram legend did not exist before our people were kidnapped by England, France and America, murdered and buried in the West. R. F. Gould writes in Vol. 2 of his works; "The Hiram Abiff legend was introduced into Speculative Masonry between 1723-1729, more likely 1725". We must remember that the Caucasian leadership records every event of history and current activities, both nationally and internationally. They have files on you and me. Their sophisticated means of intelligence allows them to record information near and far, secretly and publicly.

The Hiram Legend is the recorded history of the slave trade and murder of the African people. Slavery was the most affluent business and the main activity in the 1700's. Natural intelligence tells us that the wise and prudent would

at least record the events of such a human tragedy. The murder of Hiram Abiff, the Master Builder is not a legend or myth. It is a detailed report of the reality of the evils and cruelties of slavery. According to all accounts of the story, Hiram was a widow's son and a Master Builder. The reports say that he was slain by three men and then buried in the rubbish and in the west. The grave was shallow. The story also says that their were more than three men who originally conspired to steal the Master's Word (Knowledge) from Hiram.

However, the others recanted and repented. Three of them, Jubela, Jubelo and Jubelum were determined to get the sacred word, even if it meant death. They waited for him at three different locations. The south, the west and the east gates. One of them struck him in the left breast. The second one struck him in the throat. The third struck him in the head and killed him. Remember, some people look at myths, study them, and them try to make those myths into a reality. Others look at reality and then make a myth based on reality. Let us examine the similarities between the African-American experience and the story of Hiram Abiff. Authentic history reveals that the African people were great master builders. Many of the great works and achievements, such as the pyramids still stand as a testimony of our great achievement.

Our contributions in the area of medicine, psychology, math, astrology and astronomy attest to our high level of intellectual development and human awareness. In fact the Western world got its intellectual and scientific enlightenment from the Master Builders of Africa. The African Muslims, called the Moors and others, took the light of Al-Islam into Europe and civilized those savage and backwards people. Our people had great Islamic governments and centers of learning and institutions.

History also informs us that there were several countries involved originally, in the capture and enslavement

of the African people. However, England, France and America stand out in history as the three countries that dealt the death blow by establishing the worst form of slavery ever recorded in human history. The story of Hiram Abiff says the true or real name of God was lost (the knowledge of God) and replaced by a substitute word (Mah-hah-bone). The true history of our life in Africa and the world, was lost. Our life as Muslims and productive people was lost. Our culture, our language and our religion was lost and we were given a substitute and foreign culture, language and religion.

Remember brother, think, reflect. Whenever you repeat the ceremony of Hiram Abiff in your lodge, remember that it is referring to you and not a Jew from the days of Solomon. The Caucasian never told our people the real meaning of that story. They have given you several meanings and interpretations of the story, but he has never told our people or even suggested directly to one African-American Mason or Shriner that the story of Hiram Abiff refers to the death (enslavement) and eventual resurrection of the African people. Maybe, that is one of the reasons why he never wanted you to become a Mason. Perhaps, he was telling you that "you don't need Masonry, it's not for you. You need something clearer and stronger than Masonry."

I am sure that some of the wise Caucasian Freemasons wonder why our people keep repeating the Hiramic ceremony in their lodge. When will the "Black Masons" realize that the story is about their people. Wake up brother!

The Rope (Cable-Tow)

Our people (African Americans) were chained and roped like cattle during slavery. We were hung from trees like wild beast. The rope, like the burning cross, represents slavery, oppression and fear. Take that rope off your neck brother! Those of you Freemasons who love integration and

are working hard to become a part of white masonry, should think a little more carefully about that. Why? Because if you ever allow a Caucasian to become the Worshipful Master of your lodge, you will have to kneel before him with a rope around your neck and call him "Master", Worshipful Master". Do you want that? It will be even worst for you if you become a member in an all White lodge. I believe in the universal brotherhood of man. I believe we are all one human family, but I could never advocate or slightly support integration or unity, under those terms. If we have to kneel before another man let it be our own. It is best that the African-American Freemasons and the Caucasian Freemason stay separate. We should only kneel before the wisdom of Allah (God).

The Hot Sands

The burning sands and the rope (cable-tow), as well as all the other symbols and teachings of Masonry, represent one thing to Caucasian Freemasons and another thing to African-Americans. "Crossing the burning sands", represent to the Caucasians, "the heat of passions and their history and migration across the desert sands". It alludes to the time of the Crusades. Whereas, for the African-Americans, it represents "our travel over the burning sands of racism and bigotry". The "heat" alludes to the "burning lies of oppression and false propaganda". The "sands" represent our "burning desire to be free". The "sands" refer to our unstabled life and our inability to establish ourselves on a strong foundation or ideology. It represents the unsecure and unstable position that we were put in. We haven't been able to get a solid footage in the American society.

The Blindfold (Hoodwink)

In practically each degree of masonry, the candidate is "hoodwinked" and led around the lodge to the altar. The "hoodwink" or "blindfold" represents "our (African-American) mental blindness". The Caucasian robbed us of

our heritage and blinded us to the knowledge of God, ourselves, and others. The blindfold alludes to those manipulative plots and schemes that we can't see working against us. It means we don't have the knowledge (vision) to see for ourselves; we have to have others see for us and lead us around the world of religion, politics, economics etc.

From a Dead Level to a Living Perpendicular

Masonically speaking the phrase "From a dead level to a living perpendicular refers to the "ceremony of raising." Every 3rd degree Mason has to participate in that ceremony. Symbolically speaking it represents the "movement from ignorance to knowledge". It alludes to man's development from a low unrefined state to an upright refined and productive position in life. Historically speaking it refers to the European's rise from savagery and superstition to enlightenment, civilization and technology. It alludes specifically to the "European Renaissance."

The entire or complete phrase reads, "Raised from a dead level to a living perpendicular to the square." Although, most masons think this refers to the simple, 90° square, those who have insight know for sure that it alluding to the perfect square in Makkah, Arabia, The kaabah. This square cube-shape building was built by Abraham and his son Ismael. It was the wisdom of the Holy Qur'an, Al-Islam that burst forth from Makkah that civilized the Caucasians of Europe and raised them from a "dead level to a living perpendicular to the square." They were looking in the direction of the kaabah. That is why the Shrine Ritual and Recognition Test require each Shriner to proclaim that he is "Travelling from west to east over the hot sands of the desert to worship at the Shrine of Islam", the Kaabah.

Concerning the African-Americans, it refers to the low and inferior state that our people were reduced to during slavery. The "raising to a living perpendicular" alludes to our eventual elevation to the plane of dignity, excellence and

progress with the light of Al-Islam. It informs us of the need to turn towards the square house, the Kaabah, built by our ancestor Abraham and Ismael. The Holy Qur'an says; *"Turn from where ever you are in the direction of the Sacred House, The Kaabah."* (2:144)

Al-Islam is our Salvation

If our people really want to be free and equal with all men, if you want respect and dignity, you should embrace the religion of Al-Islam. The Caucasian, the Arab, the African, all men can find their place in the religion of Al-Islam. If the Freemasons really want the light they should accept Al-Islam.

The Caucasian has disrespected our people. He has disrespected you, brother. He has encouraged you to make mockery of your own history and experience. You have been tricked and robbed of the great worth that Allah has given you. It will be restored if you accept Al-Islam whole heartedly. Al-Islam is our true salvation. If you don't believe it, then give it a serious and unbiased study, and I assure you that you will change your mind, if you are sincere. Don't just accept what you hear from the media, examine it with a sober mind for yourself.

CHAPTER 6

Shrinedom: Enlightenment or Enslavement

As we have already explained in a previous chapter, the Hiramic Story was adopted by the masons around 1725 and it symbolizes the African slave experience. What about our freedom? How was it recorded or alluded to by the Caucasian designers of masonry? The Caucasians who travelled to Africa found that Al-Islam was a major factor in the progress and advancement of African people. They saw the enlightening and motivating affect that the religion of Al-Islam had on our people. Observing this reality, they realized that Al-Islam appeals to the very nature and soul of the African man. And that any contact with Al-Islam would be stimulating. No Muslim would ever accept to be a slave to anyone except Allah. They knew that once the African man received Al-Islam, he would fight for freedom with an undying spirit. The Holy Qur'an says; *"Tulmult and oppression is worst than slaughter."* The Caucasian slave traders and masters realized immediately that the religion of Al-Islam was the most potent idea for freedom and liberty.

Therefore, he did all that he could to wipe out any memory or knowledge of Al-Islam that the African slave had. The Caucasian was also wise enough to record the answer and solution to the slave problem. Although every effort was made to keep us from Al-Islam, they knew one day we would be reconnected with it. They knew one day we would be exposed to the religion of Al-Islam. Imam W.D. Mohammed said in a public lecture, "I am saying that Allah intended that Al-Islam be our salvation. If a child was taken from his parents by a kidnapper, and that parent was hurt and done a terrible injustice, so was the child. If no help comes to the child and the parent also is being slandered

and mistreated and lied against, then don't you know that if there is a God, then God should, in time, do something for that situation. The mercy and justice would be to bring that child and that parent back together. Even if the parent is dead, if the child is still living, the justice would be to reconcile that child with its parents. But our parents are not dead, they are still alive. There are African Muslims in Africa, and history reports that many of us were brought from African Muslim life and were enslaved here in America."

The wise Caucasian leaders developed two strategies or methods concerning Al-Islam and the African American's freedom. They sent out two messages. One for his people and one for the African-American. Approximately six years after the Emancipation Proclamation (1865), the Caucasian formed for themselves the *Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine* (1871). This order represents the last level of Freemasonry. It only allows those masons who have advanced to the 32nd degree of Scottish Rite Masonry and Knight Templar of York Rite to join. Members of this organization learn about the tenets of Al-Islam and the wisdom of the Qur'an. This was their way of recording the answer to the slave problem. The fact that it came into existence immediately after slavery suggest that it had a relationship to that freedom.

It could not have developed during slavery because Al-Islam represents Freedom, not slavery. The Hiramic story represents the enslavement, and the Shrine order was the subtle and secret report of the answer, the resurrection. The Shriners greet each other like the Muslims do; "As-Salaam-Alaikum." They use such terms as "Allah", "Muhammad", "Kaabah", "Islam", "Mecca", "Zem Zem" and "Abdullah". The Holy Qur'an is on the altar at their meetings.

The creation of the Shrine Order in America was the Caucasian way of letting their people know the answer to

human salvation and their source of enlightenment. At the same time however, they felt the need to communicate to the less informed among them, a message of mockery. They covered their tracks by also giving the impression of mockery of Al-Islam. The intelligent, informed leaders don't mock Al-Islam. The mockery is for the less informed. The haters of Al-Islam and human freedom and dignity. Nevertheless, the Muslims must condemn all forms of mockery and misrepresentation.

Because of the economical and political advantage of having physical and mental slaves, the Caucasian would never come outright and tell the African-American that Al-Islam is our salvation. Therefore, he allowed the African-Americans to form his own Shrine Order in (1893). Why did he allow this? There were several reasons. Among the Caucasian people there were/are some that wanted/want to see us independent, free and productive. These few probably felt that the Shriner's Order was a good but subtle way of reconnecting the African-American with his heritage and the Islamic Religion. Perhaps they felt that, if we were slightly exposed to Islamic terminology, we would be motivated to further search out and find the true teachings and practices of our religion (Al-Islam). The majority wanted our people to become Shriners so that we would forever have a misconception of the Islamic religion. The selfish and wicked Caucasians in Masonry want our people to have a distorted view of Al-Islam. They also wanted to see us make mockery of our own heritage and salvation. They wanted us to be clowns. In addition to that, they wanted those of our people who joined the Shriners to feel better and more privileged than the rest of his brethren. How many of you African-American Shriners have embraced Al-Islam as a result of being a Shriner? Very few. Why? Because the Caucasian did not give you the same thing that he has. They appealed to your passion and your desire to be accepted by him more that your rational desire to be accepted by your own people first. They hinted at your salvation. The Shrine ritual carries two messages. One serious and the other

foolish. The ritual states; "The events or acts of our initiation, which to you may have seemed a bit "horse-play", were given to either impress you with the ritual or teach you a lesson that will prove beneficial in later life."

They gave the African-Americans signs, symbols, empty language and no direct understanding of the significance of the Shriners' symbols. This was done intentionally by the evil, white Supremacist. They didn't anticipate, however that one day the ritual would be exposed and that an African-American Muslim, not a Mason or Shriner, would be blessed with the understanding and the desire to see his people free. They didn't anticipate that a Muslim would come along and give real meaning to the empty and useless symbols of African-American Masonry and Shrinedom. They never expected a Muslim to teach his Shriner brothers Islam and condemn the mockery in such a way that even the Caucasian Shriners will say; "yes, he is right the mockery cannot be accepted." You African-American Shriners, who are not totally blind, I ask you once again to reject the mockery outright and accept Al-Islam wholeheartedly.

The Psychology

The African-American Shriners, particularly the Prince Hall Affiliate, may argue and say; "Brother after all we went through to wear the Fezzes and the emblems and titles of Shrinedom, you want us to just walk away from our organization. You must be crazy." You may say, "Our legal battles were too long and hard to just leave Masonry and Shrinedom and accept Al-Islam. We spent too much money." I am aware of the "Great Litigation" and the many struggles to be accepted by the Caucasians to be allowed to be called a Shriner. I am not asking you to walk away from that history. I am asking you to consider the fact that some Caucasians didn't want you to accept Al-Islam so they gave you a substitute, watered down and false impression of Al-Islam.

They tricked you into accepting Shrinedom instead of Al-Islam. The Caucasian wanted you to pretend you were a Muslim in your secret quarters while openly presenting yourself as a Christian. The Caucasian wanted you to have Shrinedom. He tricked our people by pretending to really be rejecting them. The wicked Caucasians of the past, and some now, want you to be anything but a Muslim. Think! Psychology teaches us that if you reject a person or a people for no apparent reason, you create in them a desire to be accepted. It is human nature to want to be accepted by people. The white supremacist inflated the African-American's desire to be accepted. Once they accelerated the desire of some of our people to be Masons and Shriners, (by the psychology of rejection) they opened the lodge doors and our people ran in blindly. We couldn't even see the traps and tricks or the mockery of us. Then when they allowed our people in, the Caucasian Masons and Shriners used another psychology. They told our brothers not to tell anyone else. They told them they were special, they were enlightened and the rest of us are ignorant and stupid. In addition, they gave them death oaths to frighten them and make them really feel like they (African-Americans) had something very important and special. It was a trick!

What free man would allow this once slave master to put another rope around his neck? Think about this, brother. Our people had just come out of a slavery; they had just experienced the cruel terror of the rope. We had just seen our people hung from the highest trees. To then turn around and join an organization that requires that a rope be put around your neck, suggests that we were tricked. I can't believe that a sane, intelligent, freedom loving human being just freed from slavery, would willingly accept that a rope be placed around his neck. Even today our genes should reject the rope around the neck. The Caucasian knows he can control people like that. All he has to do is pull the rope. As you state in Masonry, you will only go to the length of your cabletow.

Perhaps the reader can better understand this example. If you have a young child and he wants a toy, and you tell him no; he will keep trying to get it. He may cry and pout. Once you tell him okay, he will run for the toy. The toy was the stimuli. That is what happened to our people. The Caucasian dangled certain things in our face to create an appetite for those things. After a while, they removed the restriction and we ran after them. That is what happened with the Masons and Shriners. Now that you are in the Shrine Order and someone is pulling your coat, you should at least begin to look for the real keys and the traps.

The Time Bomb

The Caucasian's history and contact with the Muslims and the Islamic world shows them that Muslims take their religion very seriously. They know that some Muslims will go to physical war if someone tries to change their religion. They know that some people are extreme in their beliefs and that they will kill someone for making mockery of their religion. They know that some balance and intelligent people will go to physical war to uphold the principles and tenets of their religion. The evil manipulators put the African-American Shriners in a situation and position for criticism and condemnation by Muslims and right thinking people. They really hope for a violent confrontation. As a Shriner, you are actually holding a time bomb. The Caucasians want us to kill one another. He has prepared himself militarily and ideologically to protect and defend himself from violence. The African-American is vulnerable. We don't have ships, planes, armies, etc. The organizers of the Caucasian Shriners led their people to feel as though they do not have to worry. They control the world. But the poor African American, who cannot even control his neighborhood, has no defense.

In the late 1980's, the world saw the Muslims' public outcry against the negative, degrading, and mocking

statements that were written in the book "Satanic Verses". In my opinion, some of the statements in the Shrine Ritual are as blasphemous and degrading as those in the book "Satanic Verses". Some Muslims felt the author should be killed. I didn't feel that way nor do I feel or suggest in anyway that the African-American Shriners should be threatened. However, I do believe that the evil white Supremacist put the African-American Shriners in a situation where life as a Shriner could become very difficult. In order to get out of the white man's trap you have to remove all mockery and play that is associated with Muslims and Al-Islam. To really be clear, you should leave the Shrine Order all together. If you are really interested in Al-Islam, then read the Qur'an, go to the mosque (masjid), talk to knowledgeable Muslims, read the Muslim Journal etc. Just stop depending on the Caucasian people so much.

If you truly want to be apart of universal brotherhood, accept Al-Islam. There are Muslims of every nationality; Africans, Europeans, Arabs, Indians, Germans, Russians, African Americans. Masonry is not universal, its clandestine.

This Is Mockery!

Let us briefly examine some of the pranks and statements that are in the Shrine Ritual. Grown men participate in these pranks in the name the of having fun.

1. Eating of the Dung (Feces)

It is the custom of the tribe of Arabs that when crossing the desert, the chief would go dropping his dung (feces). The tribe following were so devoted to their chief that they would eat his dung (feces). You witnessed a noble using the "Pot"; then you were given a similar pot and told to eat a mixture that appeared to be "Dung". You were also assured that the mixture contained nothing to hurt you. This was a test of the courage and confidence you had in us as Nobles. Should a

Noble or officer give you advice and wise counsel, listen as he will not lead you astray, but will help you.

2. The Grand Salaam

Here the person "stoops very low on his knees, his head near the floor, his buttocks elevated where he receives the "Grand Salaam: that is a blow on his buttocks with two pieces of board." The Ritual also states, "This 'Test' was injected to instruct you on how to salute the Potentate. The Salaam is the way the Arab pays homage to his Superior or show respect, as we bow or raise our hats."

3. Praire Dog

After crossing the hot sands, in the cool of the evening, you were told to lie down and rest. While in this position, a little dog came along and urinated in your face. This was to teach you that all Nobles are on the same level.

4. Kissing the Blackstone

Today so many have kissed the stone that it has become black and is known as the Kaabah stone or Blackstone of Casper. Our ritual stipulates that you, in token of your sincerity, seal your obligation by kissing the Blackstone of Casper. No doubt many times you have stated that you would not "kiss" anybody's "Hind Parts" to gain a favor. Well, it seems that you were willing to kiss "The Blackstone of Casper. "Shame on you."

No right minded person could ever approve of these pranks and mockery. The Holy Qur'an warns the Muslim; *"O ye who believe! Take not for friends and protectors those who take your religion for a mockery or sport."* In surah 2 ayat 15 it states; *"Allah will throw back their mockery on them and give them rope in their trespasses, so they will wander like blind ones (to and fro)." Allah also says; "These are they who have bartered Guidance for error: But*

their traffic is profitless and they have lost true direction." (2:15)

I Made An Appeal

Muslims are obligated to address wrong. It is reported that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Whosoever of you sees an evil action, let him change it with his hand; and if he is not able to do so, then with his tongue; and if he is not able to do so, then with his heart---- and that is the weakest of faith." (Related by Muslim)

I have addressed and appealed directly to the Masons and Shriners, on three occasion.

1. Washington, D.C. 1987
2. Little Rock, Arkansas 1989
3. Miami Beach, Florida 1989

In Miami, I addressed the Imperial Potentate, leader of approximately 75,000 Prince Hall Shriners. And the Executive leadership (Divan). At this meeting as well as the other meetings, I asked them to remove the offensive and degrading language that is associated with the religion of Al-Islam. Each of the meetings or addresses were recorded and documented on cassette and video. They are available for anyone interested.

Don't Be Afraid

Allah is the Creator of the heavens and the earth. The Holy Qur'an says that Allah restores life and provides man with the resources that he needs. The All-Wise Creator will help you brother. Don't fear to do what you know in your heart is right. Don't be afraid to become a Muslim. Don't be afraid to remove the mockery. Only fear Allah, The Creator of all things.

CHAPTER 7

Will The Masonic Lodges Become Islamic Mosques?

Allah has total control over the destiny of all things. His power is eternal and absolute. His Mercy is boundless. Allah bestows his blessings on whomsoever He chooses, whenever He chooses. The Holy Qur'an says, *"Allah is All Knowing, Wise."* He knows the hearts of men. He knows their thoughts and intentions. Only Allah knows if the Masonic Lodges will become Islamic Mosques. That is to say, only Allah makes Muslims and guides whom He wills to the straight path of Al-Islam. However, it stands to reason, based on certain events of the past and present, that the majority of the African-American Freemasons will become true Muslims and work for the cause of Al-Islam.

I am optimistic about the possibility and likelihood of the Masons and Shriners converting to Al-Islam. Not only do I believe Allah can do this, but I also believe it because its been done before with other people in history. Not only has history documented the great reformation of the pagan Arabs by the Qur'an and works of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his faithful companions, but it has also documented the complete metamorphosis of the Nation of Islam here in America.

If we apply the rules of reason and logic to some of the similarities that existed between the former Nation of Islam, under the sincere leadership of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and the current Shrine organization, perhaps we will arrive at a sound and rational conclusion as it relates to the possibility of the Shriners becoming true Muslims. Before we discuss the similarities, let us first briefly discuss how Allah changed the pagan Arabs and caused them to embrace Al-Islam.

History tells us that prior to the advent of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the Arabs were a totally backwards and ignorant people. They were in a state of mental and moral darkness. Their lifestyle was an embarrassment to humanity. They had no respect for human life. Some reports say that many of them would bury their female babies alive. They were extremely committed to idol worship. In fact, they had even filled the sacred Kaabah with over three hundred idols.

Who would have ever thought that those arrogant and backwards people would have eventually accepted the religion of Al-Islam and totally change their lives? They already had their own ideas of God and worship. They were not looking for a new way of life or religion. They were content with their lifestyle. However, Allah decided to bring about a change in their lives. The pagan Arabs had polluted the Kaabah with idols, yet Allah protected it as he promised Abraham He would do. In fact that is one of the things that made the difference for the Arabs. They had the Sacred House in their midst. Allah protected the Kaabah just as He protected the Holy Qur'an.

According to the Holy Qur'an and history, a great warrior from Abyssinia, named Abraha, came to destroy the Kaabah with his elephants. Allah stopped Abraha and his army, with birds and stones. (Holy Qur'an Sura 105).

Over a period of only twenty-three years, Allah blessed Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to change that whole peninsula to Muslims. They became the most advanced people in the world at that time. Hundreds and thousands of countries have changed and accepted Al-Islam since then. Millions of people have converted to Al-Islam. Now there are over one billion Muslims in the world. If Allah changed the pagan and backward Arabs and others, then surely He can change the African-American's life from darkness and ignorance to the light of Al-Islam.

The Former Nation of Islam and The Shriners: What Did They have in Common?

Now let us consider some of the similarities that existed between the old "Lost-Found Nation of Islam in America" (the so-called "Black Muslims") and the "Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine" (African-American Freemasons) and see what is the possibility that the Shriners will embrace the pure and universal teachings of Al-Islam. Let us see what is the likelihood of them becoming true Muslims.

Fard Muhammad and Rofelt Pasha Two Mystery Men

The founders of both organizations (The Nation of Islam and the Shriners) are veiled in some mystery. Fard Muhammad, the founder of the Nation of Islam has always been some what of a mystery man. His teachings, his appearance and sudden disappearance has always been in question. It is reported that Fard himself preferred to be veiled in mystery. He would often use different names and present various tales about himself and his people. He was an immigrant either from Pakistan or Arabia. He came to America and started teaching his strange doctrine which he called "Islam", in 1930. About three years later he disappeared. He left his doctrine and the responsibility for teaching it with one of his converts, Elijah Poole, who later changed his name to Elijah Muhammad.

Under the leadership of Elijah Muhammad the teachings of Fard spread throughout America. The sincere and hard working members of the Nation of Islam brought a new spirit to the African-American community. Thousands of our people embraced the doctrine of Fard Muhammad. His doctrine consisted of various ideologies. It also had some of the tenets of the true religion of Al-Islam. One of the most important things that he left for us was the Holy

Qur'an. He said it should be respected and kept in a high place. In fact, the only picture of him that was widely circulated among the members, is the picture of him reading the Holy Qur'an.

Fard Muhammad's doctrine consisted of many things that are directly in opposition to the Qur'an and the pure teachings of Al-Islam. For example, he taught that God is a man and that the godship passes from father to son. He taught that the Blackman was God, and the Caucasian was the Devil. The followers were made to feel better than their brothers who were not members of the Nation of Islam. In fact the non-members were called the "mentally dead", "Lost Found" "Blind Deaf and Dumb."

The Nation of Islam had a self defense army called the Fruit of Islam (F.O.I.). In fact all the men were F.O.I.. This organization had foot soldiers, captains, lieutenants, inspectors and investigators. The outer appearance and work of the Nation of Islam was quite different from its inner workings and operation.

Concerning Freemasonry, the teaching of Fard Muhammad was clear. The white man is the "Mason", "Muslim's Son" and the Blackman is the "father", the "Muslim". The members of the Nation of Islam always considered themselves Muslims although their teaching and some of their practices were not in line with "Mainstream Al-Islam." The followers were sincere and more active in the communities (Black Communities) than those who professed the true doctrine of Al-Islam.

There are several theories concerning Fard Muhammad's reason for teaching a distorted view of Al-Islam. He must be condemned for using an oppressed people to advance his false doctrine. For over forty years the Nation of Islam polluted the atmosphere with a misrepresentation of Al-Islam. The theology was wrong. However, for forty years the Honorable Elijah Muhammad

and his followers helped to bring dignity, pride and strength to the African-American people. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad was perhaps the greatest reformer to be born among African-American people.

The Change: A Modern Miracle

In 1975, February 25, The honorable and courageous Elijah Muhammad died. On February 26, 1975 the very next day after Elijah's death, his son Imam Warith Deen Mohammed assumed leadership. The new leader immediately began to demonstrate his sincere love of God, the true religion of Al-Islam, and his people. His high level of wisdom and understanding of the Holy Qur'an, as well as his awareness of the minds of his people became apparent in a short while. In less than one year Imam W.D. Mohammed made at least ten major changes that would have shattered any other organization.

From the very beginning of his leadership right up to today, it seems as if there is a Divine, unseen power controlling the destiny of Imam W.D. Mohammed and the Muslim community. No one would have ever thought or imagined that the followers of Elijah Muhammad and the teachings of Fard Muhammad would ever accept the universal teaching of Al-Islam and become true Muslims. No one would have ever thought that we would stop seeing and calling Elijah Muhammad the last Messenger of Allah and accept, understand, and preach that Prophet Muhammad Ibn Abdullah (PBUH) of 1400 years ago is the last and universal Messenger of Allah. Who would have thought we would reject the Black Supremacy doctrine? Who would have dared to dream out loud, that one day there would be no more captains, lieutenants, inspectors etc., running the Nation of Islam? Who would ever have thought that the community would change its name and become recognized by the vast one billion Muslims on this earth? Most of us (the followers) thought the Nation of Islam would stay the way it was forever.

What enabled Imam W.D. Mohammed to make such successful sweeping changes? What did he rely on for his strength and guidance? What was in the midst of the followers that assured them protection and guidance? Imam W.D. Mohammed relied totally on Allah and the teachings of the Holy Qur'an. His sincerity and trust in Allah as well as his belief in the goodness of the common follower gave him the strength to direct his community to the religion of Al-Islam. Allah blessed the sincere and misguided followers to see the light that was already in their midst, the Holy Qur'an.

The Holy Qur'an was the best thing that we had and it did the same thing that it had done fourteen hundred years ago. It brought about a miraculous change. The Holy Qur'an changed the course of human society. Believe it or not the change brought on by the Holy Qur'an in our life affected the entire country. Imam W.D. Mohammed was blessed with the responsibility of changing the Nation of Islam and ushering in a new way of thinking. In fact his great works are respected world wide. The temples were changed to Masajid (Mosques). Some of the African-American Muslims are now as knowledgeable of the religion of Al-Islam as any other Muslim on this earth.

The founder of the African-American Shriners, Rofelt Pasha, is also veiled in mystery. Some of those in the area of Masonic research have even raised the question of Pasha's actual existence. Very little information is known about this man. Some African-American Shriners report that Rofelt Pasha brought the "Secret Works of the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine" to America, and initiated and authorized a man name John G. Jones to establish the Shrine Order throughout America. It is alleged that Pasha came from Arabia. Pasha was a foreigner and Jones and African-American. Remember Fard Muhammad was also a Foreigner and Elijah Muhammad was an African-American. Other reports say that John G. Jones and others visited Arabia and was initiated into Shrinedom.

Jones returned and began establishing Shrine Temples throughout America.

Reverend Robert L. Uzzel, in his presentation at the first Muslim-Masonic Dialogue in Washington D.C. 1987, stated "According to the legend, it was on June 1, 1893 at Apollo hall and State Street in Chicago, that John G. Jones and thirteen other Black Masons received the degree of the Mystic Shrine from an Arab name Rofelt Pasha. Now as a member of the Imperial Historical committee of the Mystic Shrine, I can tell you that we've not been able to prove or disprove whether Rofelt Pasha ever lived. There is a lot of problems with that story."

The Shrine order uses both the Holy Qur'an and the Bible. Just as the Nation of Islam used to. The Shriner's meetings opens up with the Muslim Prayer Al-Fatiha. On the altar are both books, the Qur'an and Bible. In the Nation of Islam it was common for both books to also be present during temple meetings. In fact many of the ministers would refer to them both. All of the books written by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, former Leader of the Nation of Islam makes a lot of references to the Bible and Qur'an.

The Shriners, many of who are professed Christians, refer to the Creator by the name Allah, they greet each other As-Salaam-Alaikum. In fact, they are called Shriners because their focus and supposed direction for travel is towards the Kaabah, the Shrine of Islam.

The Nation of Islam's teachings were similar. We called ourselves Muslims and many of us really wanted to be Muslims. In fact, we thought we were true Muslims and that we were not doing or saying anything wrong. I am sure that most of the African-American Shriners don't think that they are doing anything wrong when they wear the Islamic garments and use Islamic terminology, but yet display behavior that is un-Islamic and offensive. The Shriners are made to believe and feel that they are better than everyone

else. They refer to non-members as "the profane, ignorant, mentally dead, in the dark", etc. Members of the Nation of Islam felt the same. We considered non-Muslims mentally dead, "lost-found", ignorant. We believed we were "raised from the dead". Others were "blind, deaf, and dumb."

The Shrine Organization, just like the Nation of Islam has captains, first and second lieutenants, inspectors, investigators etc. I am not saying that the Shriners in any way have the same exact intent as the Nation of Islam, nor am I saying that there were not some clear differences between the Nation of Islam's hopes and aspirations and the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order or the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. I am only trying to show that the current Muslim community that supports Imam W.D. Mohammed at one time was off the track, just as the Shriners are. But both had the Holy Qur'an.

In the early years of the Nation of Islam, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and his followers wore the red fezzes like the Moorish Americans. The Shriners still wear the fez. In fact that is why some Moorish Americans claim that Elijah Muhammad followed Noble Drew Ali and others claim he was a Mason. The Honorable Elijah Muhammad was never a Moorish American or a Freemason. In fact, that is one of the reasons why he stopped his followers from wearing the Moroccan Fez. He didn't want his followers to be confused with the Moorish Americans. Some of you may have seen the picture of Elijah Muhammad with a group of other men with red fezzes. Those were his followers, the F.O.I., not Moorish Americans, as some people claim.

The Nation of Islam had a lot of symbolic teachings. The Shriners do, too. We wore emblems. The Shriners do, too. We had the Sun, Moon and star and crescent. The Shriners have the same. The teachings of the Nation of Islam was made up of several myths, ideologies and philosophies. The Shriner's Wisdom is also made up of several myths, ideologies and philosophies.

The Conditions for Change

The essential elements for the elevation and modification of the former Nation of Islam was the presence of the Holy Qur'an, the sincerity of the people, and the hints and clues as well of the inconsistencies of some of the lessons. These were some of the things that served as a foundation for a sincere and wise strategist like Imam W.D Mohammed to come in and bring about a hundred and eighty degree change. This sincere Muslim, by the grace of Allah, directed the community to the Holy Qur'an. He placed the emphasis on the moral essence of the Holy Qur'an and its universal teaching and application. Now the once Black militant Nation of Islam no longer exists. But the same followers are now true Muslims. We now are proud to have the real light. The Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). We are also thankful for our brother and Imam, Warith Deen Mohammed.

Based on the evidence and information that has just been presented and reviewed, it stands to reason, that the Shrine Organization (African-Americans), has some of the same ingredients for a complete change from where it is now to a true enlightened Muslim community. I believe that if it was done for the Nation of Islam, it can be done for the African-American Freemasons because the teachings are similar.

Who Has the Courage?

In order for the reformation of the Shrine order to take place, the people must be sincere. In addition, you brothers who belong to the Shrine Order must do it. Most organizations and countries, change within. No outsiders changed the Nation of Islam. One of the members did. I can't change the Shrine Order, you have to, brother. Once you see the truth of Al-Islam and the false teachings of Shrinedom, have the courage to usher in the truth. Imam

W.D. Mohammed is one man. He was courageous enough to do what he knew had to be done. The members of the Nation of Islam were much more militant than you Shriners. Allah will protect you if you are sincere. The people are ready. I have tried to help condition you, brother. But I am an outsider, I will never become a Freemason or Shriner, but you are. You are already accepted by your brothers. They know you and respect you.

Some Will Resist Change

There are always those who resist change. The wise know that. If one of the Shriners see the light and accept the responsibility to bring the Shriners to Al-Islam, some of his people will rebel. The same thing happened a few years after Imam W.D. Mohammed became the leader of the Nation of Islam and began making major changes. Minister Louis Farrakhan and others defected and tried to maintain the old teachings. He was unsuccessful. He too had to eventually modify the teachings. Allah informed the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) of people who resisted the changes that he was guided to make. The Holy Qur'an states; *"The fools among the people will say: What hath turned them from the Qibla to which they were used?" Say: To Allah belong both East and West: He guideth whom He will to a Way that is straight."* (Sura 2 Ayat 142) The Qur'an also says; *"Indeed it was (a change) momentous, except to those guided by Allah. And never would Allah make your faith of no effect."* (Surah 2 Ayat 143) There are those who will never change and follow the true direction. Allah says; *"Even if thou wert to bring to the people of the Book all the signs (together), They would not follow Thy Qibla....*(Surah 2 Ayat 145)

The Shriners have the Holy Qur'an, the most precious book in the world, right before them. If they would tap into it with a sincere heart, I believe Allah will make them Muslims. It happened with the Old Nation of Islam, and the pagan Arabs, then surely it can happen with the Freemasons and Shriners. In the meantime the Shriners

must be taught along with all other people, and condemned for their mockery and misrepresentation of Al-Islam.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the African-American Masons and Shriners should embrace the religion of Al-Islam and become Muslims for the same reasons that all people should. Because it offers the best way of life for humanity. It recognizes the sacred nature and rights of the individual. It insists on the peaceful co-existence of humanity. It is a comprehensive religion that allows each individual to strive to reach his/her own potential. (H.Q. 92:4)

For these reasons, as well as many others, the African American Freemasons and Shriners should accept Al-Islam and become true Muslims. Let the record show that a Muslim made a direct appeal to the Freemasons and Shriners to embrace Al-Islam. It is up to them. Will they heed the appeal or:

"Will they wait Until
Allah (God) comes to them
in canopies of clouds, with
angels (in his train) and
the question is settled?
But to Allah (God)
do all questions
go back (for decision)."
(H.Q. 2:210)

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Mr. El-Amin is the author of several books: *Let There Be Light*, pubished in 1981; *Al-Islam, Christianity and Freemasonry*, published in 1985; *Freemasonry, Ancient Egypt, and The Islamic Destiny*, published in 1988; and *Abraham's Legacy: Ancient Wisdom and Modern Reality*, published in 1988.

His works have been received internationally, in such places as Ghana, Japan, Riyad, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, London, England and Kenya.

Mustafa has devoted the last 15 years to the study of Al-Islam and Freemasonry. He has given several lectures on each subject. His works have led to positive dialogue between Muslims and Masons. In 1989 he addressed the Imperial Potentate and Executive Leadership of the Prince Hall Shriner. Mustafa has also given several presentations on Prophet Abraham. In 1989, He spoke at the International Seerah Conference, sponsored by the Muslim World League. His topic was "Prophet Abraham and The Seerah of Prophet Muhammad."

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